

REMARKS

The last Office Action of April 1, 2009 has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of the instant application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-16 are pending in the application. Claims 9 and 13 have been amended. No claims have been canceled or added. Support for the amendments to claims 9 and 13 can be found in the flow diagram depicted in the sole figure and the accompanying description in paragraphs [0013] to [0017] of the original specification. Amendments to the Abstract have also been made.

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

The abstract of the disclosure was objected to because it contains reference numbers. A new Abstract is enclosed with this Response.

Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is thus respectfully requested.

OBJECTION TO THE DRAWINGS

The objection to the drawings is not understood as the single drawing is neither designated with "Fig. 1" or "Fig.". Clarification is required. It appears that the Examiner possibly referred to the sheet numbering "1/1", appearing at the top margin of the drawing sheet. Therefore, applicant submits a new drawing sheet, labeled "REPLACEMENT SHEET" which does not contain any sheet numbering.

Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is thus respectfully requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. §§102, 103

Claims 9-11 and 13-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Camerini et al. (US 2002/0046263 A1).

Claims 12 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Camerini.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and §103(a) are respectfully traversed in view of the amendments to independent claims 1 and 13 and the following remarks.

Claims 9 and 13 have been amended to more clearly recite the features of the invention, as described in detail in paragraphs [0013] to [0017] of the original specification and in the process flow depicted in the sole figure.

Claim 9, as amended herein, recites a method for installation of an automation component in an automation system, wherein the automation component requests a communication address and receives the requested communication address from a server of the automation system. The automation component then requests from the server a first communication data set identifying a functionality of the automation component, and thereafter requests from the server a second configuration data record associated with the identified functionality of the automation component. The automation component then carries out a process in accordance with the second configuration data record.

The salient feature of the invention, as now more clearly recited in claim 9, is that the automation component is initially unaware of its functionality, so that neither the client (automation component) nor the server initially have any information about the client's functionality. In order to provide functionality information to the client, the client requests from the server a first configuration data record that identifies a functionality of the automation component. After receiving the first configuration data record, the client is now aware that it is, for example, a transducer, a converter, a sensor or a controller. Having now identified the client's functionality, the client then receives from the server, associated the identified functionality, a second configuration data record for actually configuring the transducer, converter, sensor or controller.

Claim 13, as amended herein, is directed to a system and recites substantially the same features as amended claim 9.

Camerini (US 2002/0046263 A1) discloses a method of configuring an automation module on a TCP/IP network. The steps A, B and C of Camerini's method are shown in FIG. 4 and described in paragraphs [0018] to [0024]. The 3 steps in the Camerini application can be summarized as follows:

1. Assign application name (ASCII) – the application name is unique and memorized in the module. Module requests IP address
2. Search in server for IP address and location of data file corresponding to application name. Server sends IP address & file location
3. Module sends read configuration query with location of data file.
4. Server returns data file.
5. Module controls process based on data file.

Camerini states particularly in paragraph [0023]:

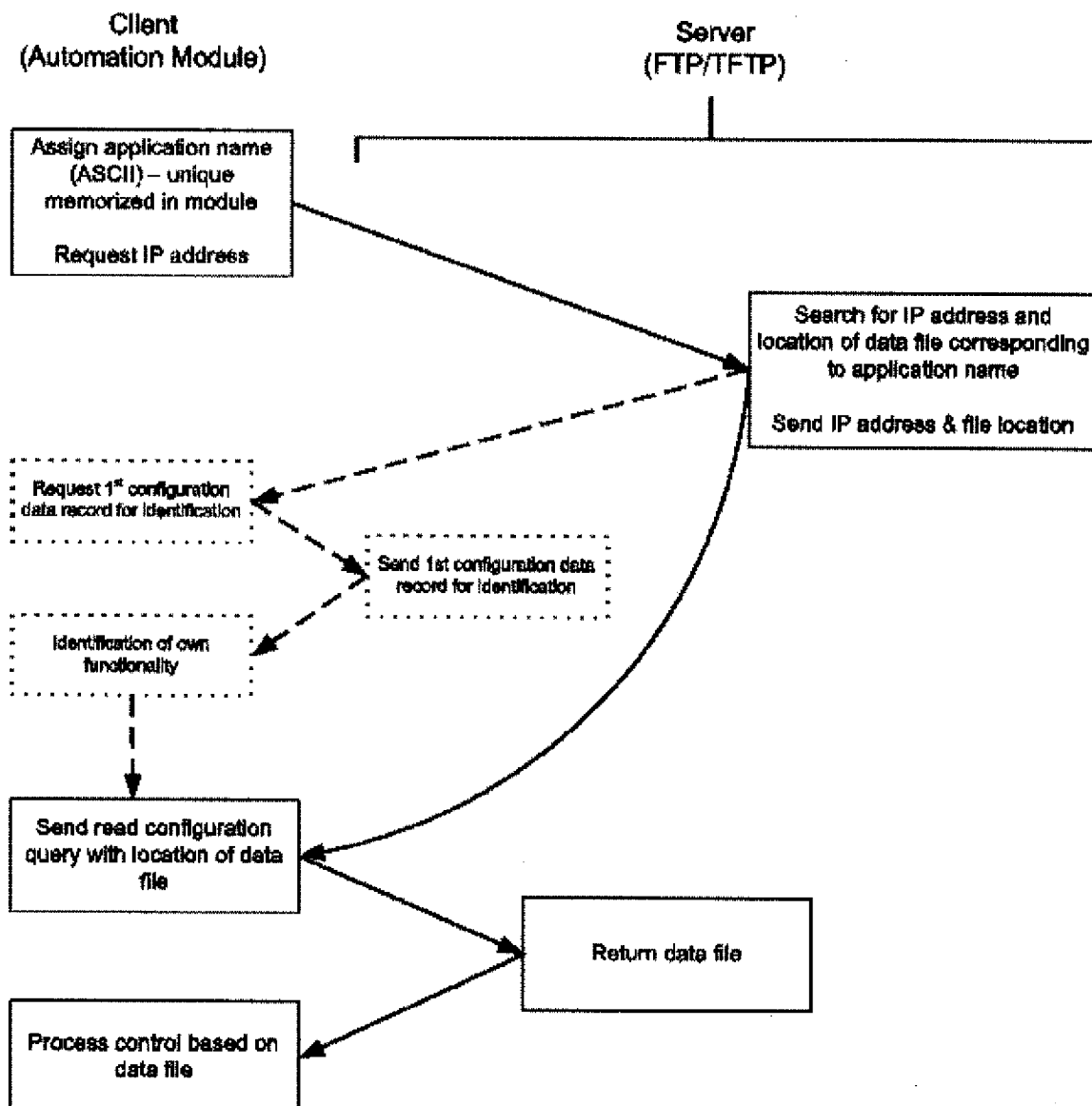
If the application name 40 is not present in the configuration table 45, then the DHCP server 23 sends an error response following a defined procedure not described in detail in this document.

Camerini moreover states in paragraph [0027] that

"[o]nce the configuration table has been updated, a module 10 can be replaced by another module with the same application name 40 using the method described in this document."

Camerini thus makes it amply clear that the application name and hence the module's functionality are known to the module when the module replaces a failed module. This is completely different from the present invention where, as already explained above, the automation component is initially completely unaware of its own functionality. The differences between the method of the present invention and the

method described by Camerini can be explained more succinctly with reference to the diagram below, which shows in the boxes enclosed by broken lines the additional steps performed in the method of the present invention. The steps shown in the boxes enclosed by solid lines are identical or similar between the two methods. It is evident that Camerini fails to disclose at least the steps of sending a first configuration data record for identifying the functionality of the module and then having the module identify its own functionality based on the first configuration data record.



For the reasons set forth above, it is applicant's contention that Camerini neither teaches nor suggests the features of the present invention, as recited in independent claims 1 and 13.

Claims 10-12, which depend from claim 9, and claims 14-16, which depend from claim 13, are then also patentable for at least the reasons that amended claims 9 and 13 are patentable.

Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is thus respectfully requested.

CITED REFERENCES

Applicant has also carefully scrutinized the further cited prior art and finds it without any relevance to the claims on file. It is thus felt that no specific discussion thereof is necessary.

PRIORITY DOCUMENT

On page 1 of the Office Action, the Examiner noted that no certified copy of the priority document has been received. It is noted that the present application was filed under 35 U.S.C. §371. Thus, the priority document has been filed in the international application no. PCT/EP2005/050369, and it is noted that the priority document is also referred to on the front page of WIPO publication n. WO 2005/078541, which corresponds to the international application. Should the Examiner be unable to locate any indication that the certified copy of the priority document was filed in the international application, applicant will submit a replacement copy.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above presented remarks and amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all claims on file should be considered patentably differentiated over the art and should be allowed.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawing, then it is respectfully requested that such changes be made by Examiner's Amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance. If the Examiner feels that it might be helpful in advancing this case by calling the undersigned, applicant would greatly appreciate such a telephone interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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